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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6025

<http://appropriations.senate.gov>

March 24, 2017

The Honorable John F. Kelly
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Kelly:

I have received the February 28, 2017, letter from Stacy Marcott, Acting Chief Financial Officer, notifying the Committee of a proposed reprogramming of \$20,000,000 to begin the planning and designing of new physical barriers along the Southwest Border.

The Committee does not object to the reprogramming request, as the Department has provided assurances that the evaluation and selection of proposed prototypes will include investments in design, construction, technology (including (b) (7)(E) and patrol and access roads. The Committee has received further assurances from the Department that this process will be conducted transparently and cost effectively, with highest priority for officer safety, with emphasis on risk, and without prejudice for specific solutions. Specifically, it is imperative that the Department give equal consideration to currently deployed and proven border security capabilities. The Committee asserts that no funding for the construction phase of the long-term border solution should be appropriated until the Department has completed an analysis of alternatives to determine the most appropriate and effective solutions for securing the border. This study shall also include a detailed cost-benefit analysis and effectively measure the impact of the existing fencing along the border as recommended by the Government Accountability Office. These are critical steps that must occur in order for the Committee to make informed decisions on any additional funding request.

I have consulted the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee, Senator Jon Tester, and he concurs.

Sincerely,



John Boozman
Chairman

Subcommittee on Homeland Security